### SCHEMATIC TABLE OF
### JAPANESE OBLIGATIONS AND THEIR RECIPROCALS

#### I. On

Obligations passively incurred. One 'receives an on'; one 'wears an on,' i.e., on are obligations from the point of view of the passive recipient.

- **ko on.** On received from the Emperor.
- **oya on.** On received from parents.
- **nushi no on.** On received from one's lord.
- **shi no on.** On received from one's teacher.

On received in all contacts in the course of one's life.

**NOTE:** All these persons from whom one receives on become one's on jin, 'on man.'

#### II. Reciprocals of on

One 'pays' these debts, one 'returns these obligations' to the on man, i.e., these are obligations regarded from the point of view of active repayment.

##### A. Gimu

The fullest repayment of these obligations is still no more than partial and there is no time limit.

- **chu.** Duty to the Emperor, the law, Japan.
- **ko.** Duty to parents and ancestors (by implication, to descentants).
- **nimmu.** Duty to one's work.

##### B. Giri

These debts are regarded as having to be repaid with mathematical equivalence to the favor received and there are time limits.

1. **Giri-to-the-world.**
   - Duties to liege lord.
   - Duties to affinal family.
   - Duties to non-related persons due to on received, e.g., on a gift of money, on a favor, on work contributed (as a 'work party').
   - Duties to persons not sufficiently closely related (aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces) due to on received not from them but from common ancestors.

2. **Giri-to-one's-name.** This is a Japanese version of die Ehre.
   - One's duty to 'clear' one's reputation of insult or imputation of failure, i.e., the duty of feuding or vendetta. (N.B. This evening of scores is not reckoned as aggression.)
   - One's duty to admit no (professional) failure or ignorance.
   - One's duty to fulfill the Japanese proprieties, e.g., observing all respect behavior, not living above one's station in life, curbing all displays of emotion on inappropriate occasions, etc.

---